

Ta ard-eailley pan-Cheltiagh Vannin, yn Chruinnaght, cowraghey yn daeedoo vlein echey ayns Jerrey Souree mleeaney. Ta claare feer jingit as bioal ayn as t'eh baghtal dy vel yn ving-stiuree er n'yannoo obbyr niartal, goaill stiagh ynnyd-eggey noa. T'eh feer vie neesht dy vel y Chruinnaght goll er l'heanaghey as dy bee taghyrtysyn elley car ny bleeaney, goaill stiagh reddyn cour y Ghaelg hene. Ta'n feailley jannoo lane ymmyd jeh'n Ghaelg as ta ram sleih Gaelgagh goaill ayn ayn. Ny-yeih ta ymmodee sleih—Gaelgagh as Baarlagh, ayns Mannin as çheu-mooie—corree dy vel ennym noa 'Celtfest Isle of Man' er ve currit er yn eailley. T'ad corree dy vel ennym ayns Baarle ynrycan er n'ghoaill ynnyd ennym Gaelgagh va sleih oayllagh as taitnyssagh er, as nagh vel monney dy vlass Manninagh er yn ennym noa.

Ta'n ving-stiuree gra dy vel yn ennym y Chruinnaght foast ayn son yn çheshaght ta jannoo yn feailley, agh t'eh baghtal dy re Celtfest t'ad laccal myr ard-ennym da'n eailley hene. Dooyrt oltey jeh'n ving-stiuree rish Pabyryn-naight Vannin y vee shoh chaie dy row yn feailley ayns feme jeh 'troggal eddin', as dy jinnagh caghlaa ennym tayrn ny smoo dy leih stiagh. 'Ta shin er chlashtyn barelyn ayns y daa vlein shoh chaie va gra foddee dy row eh ymmyrçhagh da'n eailley jannoo ny smoo dy ghoaill sleih stiagh,' dooyrt ee. 'My ta fys eu cre yn Chruinnaght, as er ve ayn roie, s'lhiack lhiu ee hannah. Agh dy heeyney magh nyn laue gys sleih noa, foddee eh ve ny s'doillee lesh fockle Gaelgagh oddys y ve doillee da sleih 'ockley magh.'

Ta mee hene credjal nagh vod leshtal erbee y ve ayn son dolley magh ennym Gaelgagh myr shoh. T'eh soiaaghey beg jeh tushtey sleih dy ghra nagh vod ad gynsagh un ockle dy Ghaelg. Ta ram feaillaghyn Celtiagh elley ayn, lheid as Lowender Peran 'sy Chorn as Cwlwm Celtaidd 'sy Thalloo Vretnagh, raad nagh vel y chooid smoo dy leih ta goll huc loayrt y ghlare Cheltiagh ynnydagh agh t'eh çheet lhiu dy ghra yn ennym as cha jinnagh ad dy bragh caghlaa eh. Er y gherrit shoh ta enmyn Gaelgagh er ve currit er ymmodee buill, buildalyn as sheshaghtyn ayns Mannin, as ta caghlaa ennym y Chruinnaght goll noi'n chosney shen ooilley. Lhisagh yn ennym Gaelgagh cur caa dooin jeh hene dy heeyney magh gys sleih as dy ynsagh red beg Gaelg daue, ayns ynnyd ve jeeaghit er myr kiap-snapperal. Ga dy re tayrn stiagh sleih noa ta grait dy ve yn oyr son yn ennym noa, t'eh possibyl dy jean eh cur wheesh cheddin ny ny smoo dy leih ersooyl (ga dy vel mee treishteil nagh daghyr shen).

Ta mee greinnaghey sleih dy hirrey dy cooyrtoil er y ving-stiuree dy chur cooyl rish y chaghlaa shoh, as dy yannoo yn Chruinnaght ny ard-ennym er yn eailley hene reesht. Ta mee greinnaghey shiu neesht, cre-erbee haghryys, dy groll gys yn eailley as dy chummal seose eh, agh dy haghney jannoo ymmyd jeh'n ennym Celtfest, as tannaghtyn dy ghra yn Chruinnaght ny ynnyd.

The island's main national pan-Celtic festival, Yn Chruinnaght ('the gathering'), celebrates its fortieth anniversary in July. There is a very full programme and it is clear that the organizing committee has done a lot of hard work, including a new website. It is also excellent news that Yn Chruinnaght is to be expanded with other events throughout the year, including more focused specifically on the Manx language. The festival makes extensive use of Manx and many Manx speakers are involved in it. However, many people—both those who speak Manx and those who don't, in the Isle of Man and beyond—are angry that the festival has been renamed 'Celtfest Isle of Man'. They are opposed on the grounds that an English-only name has replaced a Manx Gaelic name that was familiar and well-liked, and that the new name lacks a distinctive Manx flavour.

The organizers say that the name Yn Chruinnaght is being maintained as the name of the body behind the festival, but it is clear that Celtfest is intended as the primary name of the festival itself. A member of the organizing committee told Isle of Man Newspapers last month that the festival needed a 'facelift', and 'that a name change would help spread the appeal of the festival'. She said: 'We have had feedback from the past couple of years that said the festival maybe needed to be a bit more inclusive. If you know what Yn Chruinnaght is, and you've been before, then you are already sold on the idea. But to reach out to new people, it can be harder with a Gaelic word that people can struggle to pronounce.'

My own view is that there can be no excuse nowadays for erasing a Manx name like this. It insults people's intelligence to suggest that they are not capable of learning one name. There are several other Celtic festivals, such as Lowender Peran in Cornwall and Cwlwm Celtaidd in Wales, where most attendees do not speak the local Celtic language, but they manage to say the name and no-one would dream of changing it. In recent years many places, buildings and institutions in the Isle of Man have been given Manx names, and changing the name of Yn Chruinnaght to an English name goes against all that progress. The Manx name should in itself be a chance to reach out and educate, and not seen as a hindrance. Though attracting more people has been given as the reason for the new name, it is possible that it will put off just as many or more (although I hope that does not happen).

I would encourage people to ask the organizing committee politely to reverse the name change, and restore Yn Chruinnaght as the primary name of the festival itself. I also strongly encourage you, whatever happens, to attend and support the festival, but to avoid using the name Celtfest, and continue to call in Yn Chruinnaght.